

branches threaten democracy and the rule of law in Peru. Indeed, Peru, could be said to be undergoing a "slow-motion coup." Though not under attack in a violent or conspicuous manner, democracy and the rule of law in Peru are increasingly in question.

Mr. President, if one considers the incredible spread of democracy around the world over the last century, and in particular over the last twenty years, such a development is indeed disturbing. Consider the following: according to Freedom House, of the 192 sovereign states in existence today, 119 of them are considered true democracies. In 1950, just 22 countries were democracies, meaning that nearly 100 nations have made the transition over this half century. Nowhere was there a more dramatic change than in our own back yard. In 1981, 18 of the 33 nations in the hemisphere were under some form of authoritarian rule. By the beginning of the 1990's, all but one—Castro's Cuba—had freely elected heads of state.

Despite these gains, freedom in the hemisphere remains fragile and uncertain—Peru being just one example. After 7 years of neglect by the current administration, some of the hard-fought victories for freedom in Latin America are weakened and in jeopardy. There is no doubt that if the elections are not deemed to be free and fair, it will represent a major setback for the people of Peru and for democracy in the hemisphere.

Mr. President, we must recommit ourselves to nurturing and protecting the gains of freedom around the world, but with great attention on our own hemisphere. A message must be sent to President Fujimori that if democratic processes are not respected, their economic and diplomatic relations will suffer. This message should be unanimous from every nation in the region, and not just from the United States. A breach of democracy, especially in this hemisphere, must not be allowed to stand.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 43

Whereas presidential and congressional elections are scheduled to occur in Peru on April 9, 2000;

Whereas independent election monitors have expressed grave doubts about the fairness of the electoral process due to the Peruvian Government's control of key official electoral agencies, systematic restrictions on freedom of the press, manipulation of the judicial processes to stifle independent reporting on radio, television, and newspaper outlets, and harassment and intimidation of opposition politicians, which have greatly limited the ability of opposing candidates to campaign freely; and

Whereas the absence of free and fair elections in Peru would constitute a major set-

back for the Peruvian people and for democracy in the hemisphere, could result in instability in Peru, and could jeopardize United States antinarcotics objectives in Peru and the region: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should promptly convey to the President of Peru that if the April 9, 2000 elections are not deemed by the international community to have been free and fair, the United States will modify its political and economic relations with Peru, including its support for international financial institution loans to Peru, and will work with other democracies in this hemisphere and elsewhere toward a restoration of democracy in Peru.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I am joining Senators COVERDELL, DEWINE and HELMS in introducing a Joint Resolution regarding the presidential and congressional elections in Peru, which are scheduled for April 9. I want to thank the other sponsors for their leadership and concern for these issues.

These elections have generated a great deal of attention and anticipation, and they have also focused a spotlight on President Fujimori, who is running for an unprecedented third term. He is doing so after firing three of the country's Supreme Court judges, who had determined that a third term was barred by Peru's Constitution.

President Fujimori has often been praised for what he has accomplished since he first took office in 1990. His success in defeating the brutal Sendero Luminoso insurgency, combating cocaine trafficking, and curbing soaring inflation has brought stability and greater economic opportunities.

These are important achievements. Unfortunately, they have often been accomplished through the strong arm tactics of a president who has shown a disturbing willingness to run roughshod over democratic principles and institutions.

In the run up to the April 9th election, President Fujimori's and his supporter's disrespect for democratic procedures and the conditions necessary for free and fair elections has rarely been so blatant.

Journalists and independent election observer groups cite the Peruvian Government's control of key official electoral agencies, systematic restrictions on freedom of the press, manipulation of the judicial process, alleged falsification of electoral petitions and harassment and intimidation of opposition politicians as just a few of the problems plaguing this process.

In February, the National Democratic Institute and the Carter Center concluded that "extraordinary, immediate and comprehensive measures" were necessary if the Peruvian elections are to meet international standards. Those measures have not been taken, and NDI and the Carter Center recently reported that "irreparable

damage to the integrity of the election process has already been done." The Clinton administration, to its credit, has expressed grave concerns about the transparent attempts by President Fujimori and his supporters to manipulate the election process.

Mr. President, the results of the Peruvian elections will not be known until the final ballot is counted. But one thing is already clear. If the elections are not deemed to have been free and fair, it will be a major setback for the Peruvian people and for democracy in the hemisphere. And if that happens, the United States must react strongly. We will have no choice but to modify our economic and political relations with Peru, and work to restore democracy to that country.

That is the message of this resolution, and I urge other Senators to support it so we can send as strong a message as possible to President Fujimori and the Peruvian people.

Mr. President, I also want to take this opportunity to mention another matter that has caused me and other Members of Congress great concern. The Peruvian Government recently brought to the United States a former Peruvian Army intelligence officer who was responsible for torturing a woman who was left permanently paralyzed as a result. He was convicted in Peru, but released after a military tribunal reversed his conviction. For reasons that I have yet to get a suitable answer to, the U.S. Embassy granted him a visa to come to the United States to testify at a hearing before the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. That was bad enough. But the fact that the Peruvian Government saw fit to include such a person in its official delegation to appear as a witness in a human rights forum says a great deal about that government, and it should be condemned.

Finally, I want to express my personal concern about Lori Berenson, who was convicted by a Peruvian military court and sentenced to life in prison. The United States Government, other governments, Amnesty International and other independent human rights groups, have all concluded that she was denied due process. I and others have called for her release or trial by a civilian court in accordance with international standards. Innocent or guilty, every person deserves a fair trial, and I would hope that a country that professes to respect human rights would recognize the obvious—that Ms. Berenson's conviction was a miscarriage of justice.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor.

S. 656

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residence.

S. 764

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 764, a bill to amend section 1951 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the Hobbs Act), and for other purposes.

S. 1020

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) were added as cosponsors of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act to cover birds of the order Ratitae that are raised for use as human food.

S. 1159

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1159, a bill to provide grants and contracts to local educational agencies to initiate, expand, and improve physical education programs for all kindergarten through 12th grade students.

S. 1237

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive military retired pay concurrently with veterans' disability compensation.

S. 1805

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1805, a bill to restore food stamp benefits for aliens, to provide States with flexibility in administering the food stamp vehicle allowance, to index the excess shelter expense deduction to inflation, to authorize additional appropriations to pur-

chase and make available additional commodities under the emergency food assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1855

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1855, a bill to establish age limitations for airmen.

S. 1874

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1874, a bill to improve academic and social outcomes for youth and reduce both juvenile crime and the risk that youth will become victims of crime by providing productive activities conducted by law enforcement personnel during non-school hours.

S. 1946

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1946, a bill to amend the National Environmental Education Act to redesignate that Act as the "John H. Chafee Environmental Education Act," to establish the John H. Chafee Memorial Fellowship Program, to extend the programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2018

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise the update factor used in making payments to PPS hospitals under the medicare program.

S. 2058

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2058, a bill to extend filing deadlines for applications for adjustment of status of certain Cuban, Nicaraguan, and Haitian nationals.

S. 2068

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2068, a bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from establishing rules authorizing the operation of new, low power FM radio stations.

S. 2070

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2070, a bill to improve safety standards for child restraints in motor vehicles.

S. 2225

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2225, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals a deduction for qualified long-term care insurance premiums, use of such insurance under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements, and a credit for individuals with long-term care needs.

S. CON. RES. 69

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 69, a concurrent resolution requesting that the United States Postal Service issue a commemorative postal stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of the naval shipyard system.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the naming of aircraft carrier CVN-77, the last vessel of the historic "Nimitz" class of aircraft carriers, as the U.S.S. *Lexington*.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 99—CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON MARCH 18, 2000, AND REAFFIRMING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD TAIWAN AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. LOTT submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 99

Whereas section 2(c) of the Taiwan Relations Act (Public Law 96-8) states "[t]he preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan" to be an objective of the United States;

Whereas Taiwan has become a multiparty democracy in which all citizens have the right to participate freely in the political process;

Whereas the people of Taiwan have, by their vigorous participation in electoral campaigns and public debate, strengthened the foundations of a free and democratic way of life;

Whereas Taiwan successfully conducted a presidential election on March 18, 2000;

Whereas President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan has actively supported the consolidation of democratic institutions and processes in Taiwan since 1988 when he became President;

Whereas this election represents the first such transition of national office from one elected leader to another in the history of Chinese societies;

Whereas the continued democratic development of Taiwan is a matter of fundamental importance to the advancement of United States interests in East Asia and is supported by the United States Congress and the American people;